

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11-13, and 16-19 are pending in this application and are rejected in the current Office Action. In response to the current Office Action, Applicants have amended claim 1 and canceled claims 9, 10, 14, and 15. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-12, 14 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Xu et al. (US Patent No. 6,759,255), hereinafter “Xu”. The Office also rejected claims 4, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Xu in view of Jursich et al. (US Pub. No. 2005/0003662), hereinafter “Jursich”. However, the Office indicated that claims 16-19 are allowed and that claims 10 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants gratefully appreciate this indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the common subject matter of claims 10 and 15 and to include the limitations of any intervening claims. Applicants also canceled claims 10 and 15 and any intervening claims. Applicants reassert that these amendments and cancellations do not concede that the claims are not patentable, as the claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Office. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the rejection.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Application as presented is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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